



THE FLY LEAF

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FRIENDS OF THE
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NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS:

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 8 P.M., FONDREN LIBRARY

Mr. Hubert Mewhinney, well known for his column in the Houston Post and for his interest in books, will be guest speaker for the final meeting of the Friends until next October. President William V. Houston will also speak to us on behalf of the Rice Institute. An exhibition of gifts from the Friends during this first year of the organization will be on exhibit in the lobby outside the Lecture Lounge.

At the meeting of the Friends April 6 the guest speaker, M. Lionel Vasse, French consul in New Orleans and a noted scholar, reviewed certain aspects of postwar France.

THE ROLE OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY IN THE
PROGRAMME OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

by Floyd Seyward Lear
Professor of History, The Rice Institute

It is my purpose here to indicate briefly the relation of the Library to the general direction and research interests of the History Department, a matter of increasing significance since the department now undertakes to offer work at the doctoral level in certain restricted areas. Three basic points should be noted: 1) A library is essentially a historian's laboratory, since he works with books, documents, and a variety of written records. 2) No library can attain completeness in the historical field, since we face a magnitude of materials in a dimension beyond the working needs of the natural sciences or even most literary research. Doctoral candidates in history must commonly travel to archives, private collections, and other repositories. 3) Historical libraries should not compete for completeness but should supplement mutual deficiencies

and work in close collaboration. Cooperation, not competition, must be the keynote.

Since the Institute has no archaeological branch, Library holdings in the prehistoric and early historic periods must be limited to the basic secondary works, but these should be kept au courant, since this field is one of large general interest. Our materials for classical antiquity are unusually good considering the absence of a Classics department, our most notable deficiency in the Humanities. We have a solid range of secondaries and the standard editions of texts and translations such as the Loeb series. Professors McKillop and Tsanoff and myself have striven over the years to fill this wide lacuna in our humanistic studies with the basic literary, philosophical, religious, and political treatises and monographs. But we lack such great collections as the inscriptions of the Roman world, contained in the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum. Serious research in the vital period of the Roman Empire would become feasible if we had this work and others of comparable range.

The Fondren Library is exceptionally strong in the medieval period with the basic texts, secular and religious, edited in the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Migne's Patrologia Latina, and the British Rolls Series, as well as several lesser collections. These works make possible research in legal and intellectual history at the doctoral level. For the social and economic history of the Middle Ages it is necessary as a rule to study abroad. However, the Library would welcome many special items in the nature of manuscripts and incunabula such as the recent gift of a facsimile of the Book of Kells. On the other hand, we are notably deficient in 16th and 17th century material, although we plan course instruction in this area next year, and many relatively inexpensive gifts can be discovered among the printed books of this period from the lists of British and continental second-hand dealers, including such items as the religious and political tracts of Reformation authors.

5.

The holdings in English history are definitely strong with many large sets and collections such as the Selden Society publications, but we are seriously weak in such contemporary regional areas as the Far East, Near East, Soviet Union, Africa, Oceania, etc. Most deplorable of all is our deficiency in the Latin American area, which should be remedied at an early date. In general modern European history we are strong in the period of the First World War with such important documentary collections as the German Grosse Politik and the French Livres jaunes, which may be combined with Dr. Craig's specialties in naval history. Here we can undertake the doctorate, although candidates will doubtless have to supplement from the Hoover Library and similar repositories.

In American history Dr. Masterson and Dr. Phillips have wisely decided to concentrate their attention upon the southern states with especial reference to the lower South. The colonial period must remain the particular

province of the great eastern libraries as is also true of the history of the eastern United States generally. Much the same limitations hold with respect to the upper Middle West, the Mountain region, and the West Coast, although our microfilmed set of the splendid Draper collection, acquired recently, is national in significance. In the political and legal field we should note the recent trend toward sectional studies and should encourage acquisitions in our holdings in both primary and secondary material in these areas. Nor can we compete with the large collections of Texan and Southwestern material at the University of Texas, but should rather seek to supplement such holdings in the interest of larger opportunities for regional research. Hence we shall welcome increasing gifts of local manuscript materials such as letters and diaries, early newspapers, and documentary sources, of which the recent gift of materials relating to Governor Hogg is a notable example. The economic history of the Houston area is another field to which corpora-

tions and business enterprises may contribute valuable archival matter. Such holdings would increase the range of doctoral research that we are now undertaking in the American field and enhance the significance of the Institute and community in historical investigation. The most encouraging features in the future prospect of history at the Rice Institute are the steady growth of library holdings, the enthusiasm and energy of a young department, the kind support of related departments, and a sympathetic administration.

RECENT GIFTS

The most handsome gift of the past month is a \$500.00 fund from Mr. and Mrs. Newton Rayzor which will be used for the purchase of old maps, thus strengthening our holdings for the new graduate programs in History and English. Various organizations have been generous, among them the National Council of Catholic Women, which is presenting

the new American translation of the Church Fathers in seventy-two volumes, of which the first ten have been published, and the drama section of the College Women's Club, which annually presents a number of contemporary plays.

Mr. Thomas W. Moore and Mrs. J. W. Lander have added a number of volumes in the field of Texas history to the collection which they started some years ago. In addition they have presented a most appropriate framed Audubon print of two owls. Mrs. Francis Donaghue has purchased the Aitken edition of The Works of Defoe requested in the last issue of the Flyleaf. From the staff of the Fondren Library comes a set of California pottery to be used for special occasions. Professor Max Freund has donated a number of important reference books from his library. Miss Sarah Lane of the Fondren Library staff has presented some choice pieces of leather to be used in book binding. Many other individual books and sets have come from The Elsevier Press, Dr. H. D.

Wilde, Mrs. Alex Frosch, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin M. Wyatt, Mr. Ruben Weltsch, Mr. Emmet Hudspeth, Miss Alice Richter Kemp, Mrs. William B. Torrans, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Kievlan, Mr. and Mrs. Donald N. McCord, Miss Adele Waggaman, Mr. L. Ludwell Jones, Mr. Hardin Craig, Jr., Mr. F. M. Law, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hamilton, Mr. Joseph Perucca, Mrs. E. A. Peden, and Mr. David Eisenlohr.

The memorial book fund has been particularly enriched by additional gifts in memory of Lt. Everett Brown. This particular memorial fund, which now totals considerably more than \$500.00, will be used for the purchase of books on music at the request of Lt. Brown's parents. Donors not listed in the last issue of the Flyleaf are Mrs. Miriam F. Lurie, the Superior Oil Company, the Keystone Class of the Baptist Temple, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Huebner, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. John A. Huebner, the Baptist Student Union at Rice Institute, and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Watts. During the month there have

been other memorial gifts in memory of Mrs. Helen Fay Dawes from Mr. and Mrs. William S. Dix, Mr. and Mrs. Alan McKillop, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Whiting, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert E. Bray, and the Fondren Library staff; in memory of Mrs. Carmen Fitch from the Fondren Library staff; in memory of Mr. Kenneth W. Shumate from Mr. and Mrs. George W. Whiting; in memory of Mr. Arnold William McStravick from the Fondren Library staff; in memory of Mr. Richard Arnold McStravick from the Fondren Library staff; and in memory of Mr. H. L. Sinclair from Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gregg.

THE LURE OF CATALOGUE AND PROSPECTUS

Will anyone underwrite for us a beautiful two-volume edition of Milton's Paradise Lost from Baskerville's famous eighteenth-century press at Birmingham? Price exactly \$12.15.

The new Catalogue of the Babson Collection of the works of Sir Isaac Newton should be added to the Newton items we already have. \$10.00.

The London Times recently called Sir Michael Sadleir "the most accomplished book-collector of our time." His great catalogue called XIX Century Fiction, based on his own collection, has just been published by Constable in two volumes at \$36.00, and should be ours as a prime example of bibliography in the service of literary history.

The individual known as "we" or "the present writer" recently tried to argue that a book with a lot of maps in it is really maps. His sophistry having been frustrated, he now invites attention to a sumptuous 1929 edition of Defoe's Tour, the part dealing with London, illustrated with numerous maps and prints, and priced at \$21.00.

A recent catalogue of Bernard Quaritch, Ltd. shows what fine offerings of first editions are still made, at prices which cannot be called inflationary, even though one does not expect notorious bargains from a dealer in the West End of London. The following are all firsts--

Gray's Odes (1757), \$56.00, the first book printed at the Strawberry Hill Press; Fielding's Amelia, four volumes (1752), \$28.00, price relatively low because the first edition was large; Smollett's Humphry Clinker, three volumes (1771), \$65.00; Pierce Egan's Life in London (1821), the book that gave us "Tom and Jerry", with the famous Cruikshank plates, and priced accordingly, \$63.00; Wordsworth's Excursion (1814), at \$14.00; Conan Doyle's Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (1894), \$8.40. Not a first, but fine and important, a limited edition of Yeats' Poems, two volumes (1948), \$28.00.

The Berlin Academy has in progress a monumental edition of the complete works of its founder, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. A great mass of his unpublished papers has long lain under seal at Hanover. To get a faint idea of his activity we may note that seven series of volumes are planned-- three series for the complete correspondence, and four series of writings covering the fields of politics,

history, philosophy, mathematics, and natural science, and the total number of volumes will be about forty. Six have already appeared, and the price runs about \$15.00 a volume.

Another item from Germany is the announcement of the publication of the first part of Dr. Claus Nissen's Botanical Book Illustration, an extensive bibliography covering all works containing botanical plates. At \$9.00 a part, the total cost should be \$45.00.

A list just received from a dealer in Tunbridge Wells, England, inspires a post-script on English firsts: Thomas Chatterton's Poems (1777) in original boards, \$31.75; Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry (1765), \$16.00; Pope's Dunciad Variorum (1729), \$13.75.

Alan D. McKillop

MEMBERSHIP

Privileges of membership in the Friends include a subscription to the Flyleaf, notice of meetings and exhibits arranged by the Friends, and the right to borrow books from the Fondren Library. Membership cards are now being mailed to all active Friends who have paid their annual membership dues or have made a cash donation or a gift of books to the Library.

The annual membership dues of two dollars are used to maintain the Friends organization and to publish the Flyleaf. The following additional memberships to build up the Book Fund are also invited:

Sustaining	\$10.00
Subscribing	\$25.00
Benefactor	100.00
Patron	500.00

All contributions to the Friends or to the Library are deductible for tax purposes.

FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY

AT THE RICE INSTITUTE

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